

tional argument. It is well, however, to use this fact in the better education of the public as to the real status of the question. As regards the interests of humanity there ought to be no need of argument. There should be a united opposition of the whole medical profession against the proposed measure, and if we use our influence as we should, it must fail to become a law.

CLUB DOCTORING AGAIN.

It is announced from Boston, that a number of "leading physicians" have organized a "Union Medical Service Company," which for a small monthly fee will entitle the subscriber to medical and surgical services whenever required. Branch offices are to be opened in every city in the United States and Canada, and the State of Massachusetts has already been portioned out into districts with one or more physicians to each, who are to be at the beck and call of the patrons of the society day and night, and to obtain their remuneration through the company. This grand scheme of exploiting the medical profession is announced in the daily press as a great advance, the item announcing it being headed "For the Workers," as if appealing especially to the much overworked labor vote, and the privilege of doctors' calls *ad libitum*, it is assumed, will do away with the trifling with serious disorders by home remedies; hence there will be an improved public health and a lowered death-rate. It, therefore, goes before the public as a highly philanthropic and benevolent project in which only the doctors are to be sacrificed for the public good, while the "company of leading physicians" will, it may be, reap a reward for their good works in appreciated stocks and dividends. There are possibilities enough of evil in this design to arouse the profession, and it will be of interest to see how far the profession and the public—especially the former—will be taken in.

A FALSE STEP.

The students of the medical department of the Iowa State University propose, it is said, to petition the legislature to modify the law that requires them to pass a state examination before being allowed to practice medicine. They argue that the university examinations for their degrees are practically state examinations, and that graduates from their institution should be excepted from the operation of the law. It is to be hoped that no such modification will be made. The arguments they bring for it are such as should have no weight with the legislature. The statement made in their petition, as reported, that adjacent states recognize the diploma while Iowa does not, is a misrepresentation in that it implies that such recognition is general, and not confined to states that have not as yet made their practice laws as rigid as those of Iowa. The introduction of such a plea should condemn the whole movement on the principle of *falsus in uno falsus in omnibus*. The medical department of the University of Iowa stands, in the light of this petition, in the position of a school that turns out inferior graduates who can not pass the state examinations, and it will, therefore, win no prestige from this performance. If its faculty members are wise, they will do what they can to suppress or to counteract this depreciation of their institution. It is cer-

tainly not a credit to the teachers if the students unduly fear state examinations, and it will be a still greater pity if the state legislature is thereby induced to undo good work already done.

DRUGGISTS' RESPONSIBILITIES.

A suit was recently brought against a Pittsburg druggist¹ by a woman who asked \$20,000 damage for the death of her daughter, which she claimed was due to a headache powder sold by the defendant. The judge non-suited the case, holding that the druggist was not guilty of any negligence and incurred no responsibility for the effects of the drug, even admitting that they were such as were claimed. The case caused much local comment and the question is asked: Who is responsible if the vendor is not, and what protection has the public against accidents from dangerous drugs not sold as such, but put out as harmless remedies for self-prescription and general use? The general opinion among wholesale and retail dealers in drugs appears to be, according to interviews reported in the Pittsburg papers, that the seller can not be held responsible, at least not for the dispensing of unbroken packages bearing the U. S. revenue stamps, as is the case with the copyrighted and proprietary remedies. Since this suit was begun, some of the Pittsburg druggists have affixed a label disclaiming responsibility on the packages of proprietary remedies, and they are interested to learn whether by so doing they have been in any way transgressing the federal law in regard to stamped articles. The court's action seems to place responsibility, if anywhere, farther back than the seller, but the case may be carried to a higher court, and the questions it involved are still far from being fully settled. As far as the public is concerned it has one safeguard, easy to apply, that is, not to buy such preparations. In this country, more than in any other, people are supposed to look out for themselves, and heretofore this has seemed to be the practical if not the legal principle in these matters. Now that the questions have been raised, it may be that we shall obtain some decisions or ultimately some legislation for the public protection against dangerous, or possibly dangerous, popular remedies, secret or otherwise.

BOVINE AND HUMAN TUBERCULOSIS.

The laws passed by some state legislatures, requiring the slaughter of tuberculous cattle, are, it appears likely, to be attacked in the coming sessions. The dairy and cattle trade interests, it is said, are already organizing to call for their revision, as it is claimed that as they exist at present they sometimes cause undue hardship and expense to the farmers and others. A correspondent in one of the leading agricultural journals calls for an investigation of tuberculosis in country and especially dairy districts, to show if possible what are the actual facts in regard to the transmission of the disease from cattle to man. It must be proved, he claims, that there is to be found at least as large a percentage of tuberculous cases, known to be such, from the consumption of milk, butter, cheese, etc., in the farming districts as is credited to this cause in city statistics, before we can

¹ Journal, December 9, p. 1500.

positively say the peril of bovine tuberculosis is real. It would seem that it ought to be easy to get these facts from country practitioners who should know their patients better even than does the city doctor, but so far there has been a dearth of information from these sources. A careful and unprejudiced investigation in our large asylums, allowing duly for the special character of their population, would also be of use. At least one high veterinary authority has expressed more than a doubt as to the possibility of this transmission, and it can not be said that the evidence is yet fully satisfactory to any impartial observer, however fully he may be convinced of its occurrence. It is claimed, on the other hand, that on dairy farms where every opportunity for the acquirement of tuberculosis by inhalation or ingestion ought to exist according to the accepted notions, the disorder is rare, and some even claim, almost unknown. A thorough study of the subject in all its aspects and possibilities is certainly desirable. Consumption is especially a disease of the cities, we know, and it is mostly studied there; it would be well if we also had an equally thorough study of its incidence in the rural districts where this question of its causation ought to be more easily elucidated.

Medical News.

MANKATO, Minn., has just dedicated a new hospital—St. Joseph's—costing \$50,000.

PROFESSOR BOSE of Giessen has resigned the chair of surgery, on account of poor health.

DR. YERSIN has been sent to Java on a special scientific mission, by the Indo-Chinese government.

DR. JACOB E. SHADLE and wife, St. Paul, Minn., sailed from New York, December 9, to spend the winter in Egypt.

DR. WALTER LESTER CARR will assume the editorial management of the *Archives of Pediatrics*, with its January number.

A WOMAN in Omaha, Neb., has brought suit for divorce on the ground that her husband insisted on treating their sick child by "Christian Science."

THE PROSECTOR of the chair of pathologic anatomy at Moscow, Dr. Kischenski, has been sent by the university to study the museums and institutes of his specialty in the large cities of Europe, for a year.

THE MEDICAL department of the Western Reserve University is recipient of \$12,000, from H. N. Hanna, for an endowment of a chair in medical jurisprudence.

THE HYGIENIC reports of Paris, for the year 1898, record 1500 persons having been bitten by dogs supposed to have been mad. Eight of these persons died.

OLEOMARGARIN, it is said, is being sold by the wholesale in different parts of New Jersey. Several tons of the article have been seized, and this has made dealers very careful.

MRS. KATE GOODMAN, Reading, Pa., was bitten on the hand by a fox terrier about nine weeks ago. The wound was cauterized, but December 1, she became violent and death occurred December 4, from hydrophobia.

THE FACULTY of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow was founded in November, 1559, the charter being granted by James VI, and its tercentenary was celebrated by a dinner on November 29.

WHILE the football season is not yet closed, eleven deaths are already recorded; some have been ruined for life, physically, and minor injuries too numerous to mention have occurred. And yet the interest in the game is greater than ever.

THE BRITISH bark *Ravenscourt*, which sailed from Panama eighty days ago, arrived in Port Townsend, Wash., December 7. Yellow fever broke out among the crew a few days after the vessel sailed and three sailors died. The vessel is now in quarantine.

DR. ARCHANGELSKI of St. Petersburg left his entire fortune to the national Society for the Preservation of the Health of the People, to start an endowment to "assist young physicians along their first steps in their difficult career."

ACCORDING to the *St. Petersburg Med. Woch.*, 9200 roubles have been appropriated by the Government to defray the expense of publishing and forwarding the report of the Moscow International Medical Congress.

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED man of Bombay, India, has given \$1,000,000 for the establishment of a university in that city. A committee has been appointed to look for a desirable location for the buildings. The name now proposed for the institution is the Indian University of Research.

THE PARIS *Gazette Medicale* draws a comparison humiliating for France between the suppression of the sale of liquor in the buffets along the line of the Southern Pacific and the newly inaugurated bars on the trains of the lines to the west of Paris, owned and run by the Government.

AT THE next meeting of the British Medical Association, commencing July 31, 1900, Dr. Pye-Smith will deliver the address in medicine, Mr. Frederick Treves that in surgery, and Dr. W. J. Smyly, at one time master of the Rotunda Hospitals, Dublin, that in obstetric medicine.

A COMMITTEE of the Frederick City (Md.) Hospital Association is visiting Washington, Baltimore and other cities for the purpose of inspecting hospitals, and to examine plans and cost of construction. The Association has raised a large sum for providing Frederick City with a much needed hospital.

THE VIENNA medical *Doctorencollegium* celebrated the five hundredth anniversary of its foundation, December 10, with a banquet, medals and a jubilee sketch of its history. "Its benevolent institutions represent a capital of 3,500,000 gulden, and it is in every respect a blessing to the profession.

THE NEW sewage farms around Paris have contaminated wells in the district, and the residents are clamoring for damages and reparation in the shape of a pure water-supply to be installed at the city's expense. The engineers, however, claim that the trouble is only temporary, until the lay of the land is fully ascertained, when appropriate drainage will divert the water from the well supply, as in the longer established sewage farms.

DR. KOSSINSKI, professor of surgery at Warsaw, and Dr. Solmann, who has a private surgical-gynecologic hospital, were sued for damages—42,000 roubles—by the family of a patient who had died from the effects of a forceps left in her abdomen after an operation. The lower court acquitted the defendants, but an appeal to a higher court has resulted in the condemnation of Dr. Solmann to a penalty of 920 roubles and severe